

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OCTOBER 7, 2020

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, October 7, 2020, in the Auditorium of the Administrative Offices at the Brookside School at 1260 Meadowbrook Road, North Merrick, New York.

The following members of the Board of Education were present:

Gina Piskin, President
Edward Corona, Vice President
Marion Blane
Melissa Cmar-Grote
Dr. Nancy Kaplan
Nina Lanci
Tracey Miller

The following member of the Board of Education was absent:

Janet Goller

Also present:

John DeTommaso, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Mara Bollettieri, Deputy Superintendent of Personnel
Mikaela Coni, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Michael Harrington, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
Eric Arlin, Director of Special Education and Pupil Services
Eric Caballero, Director of Physical Education/Health Ed/Athletics/Driver Education
Cheryl Fontana, Director of Music/Fine and Performing Arts and Adult Education
Joseph Innaco, Director of Administrative & Instructional Technology and Data Protection/Security
Emily Paluseo, Assistant Director of Special Education and Pupil Services
Jon Simpkins, Director of School Facilities and Operations
Tom Volpe, Supervisor of Transportation
Christopher Powers, School Attorney
Pattianne Guccione, District Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Education met in Executive Session at 6:27 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter, school plans, and the internal audit reports.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Piskin, Board President at 8:06 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Piskin led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a **MOTION** Ms. Lanci seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 7-0 the Board of Education approved the minutes from the September 9, 2020 meeting.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan seconded by Ms. Blane and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's Report dated August 31, 2020.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. **Presentations:**

National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist

Ms. Piskin said the National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition. High School students enter the National Merit Program by taking the preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Ms. Piskin congratulated the following students:

Lucas Ahrens – Calhoun High School

Connor Gibson – Kennedy High School

Samantha Green – Mepham High School

Dakota Guo – Calhoun High School

Tyler O'Neill – Mepham High School

Stamatia Papazis – Kennedy High School

New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) – All State

Mr. Corona said each year young musicians throughout New York State receive the exciting notification that they have been selected to participate in the NYSSMA All-State Music Festival. Mr. Corona congratulated the following students on their selection:

Tara Fusillo, String Ensemble – Viola – Kennedy High School

Jordan Novak, Vocal Jazz Ensemble – Alto – Calhoun High School

Jack Parr, Mixed Chorus – Tenor 2 – Calhoun High School

Jessica Sarubbi – Vocal Alternate – Kennedy High School

Mr. DeTommaso congratulated all of the students and said these are huge accomplishments. He hopes to be back in the boardroom soon to recognize kids how we normally would.

Mr. DeTommaso thanked the Board of Education for supporting the entire staff during some of the hardest times the staff has faced. The reopening committees worked together for thirteen weeks planning for the reopening of schools, which started in a hybrid model and transitioned to a full open model with all of the students in school on September 25th. Mr. DeTommaso commended the staff for the amazing work they have done and are continuing to do. He thanked the central administration, directors, entire staff and custodial crew. Mr. DeTommaso individually thanked each director for their unique contribution in the opening of school. Mr. DeTommaso also thanked each Principal and their teams for their remarkable work, adjusting every day in keeping kids safe and healthy. Mr. DeTommaso again thanked everyone adding that the Board of Education also appreciates everything that everyone is doing.

Mr. DeTommaso said he is cautiously optimistic that things will continue to go well and we will be able to keep kids in school. He said the kids are happy to be back and it shows. Mr. DeTommaso thanked the clerical staff, paraprofessionals and the teachers who are working harder than ever. He recognized that the teachers are doing things they have never done before with kids in class, kids on screen remotely and some kids doing both. Mr. DeTommaso said that the teachers are doing remarkably well and we need to acknowledge them more now than ever before. He said that the remote program has made tremendous changes and that the District will be building in remote training. Mr. DeTommaso mentioned that this is a large school district and discussed the possibility of having to go to the full remote plan should there be a positive case. He said that the District already had a positive case in September and discussed the scenarios the District may face. He mentioned how other school districts have had positive cases and closed for fourteen days. He also mentioned the possibility that a building might have to close for a day so that the Nassau County Department of Health can do contact tracing. He further explained that having a

positive case does not necessarily mean that the District will close, but whatever the situation could be, he assured everyone that we are prepared.

Mr. DeTommaso emphasized that it is important for families to know that what kids do outside of school, effects what happens in school and that students must continue with safety precautions when they leave the school buildings. He noted that he has never seen a student not wearing a mask in school, which shows how much they want to be in school. He said the value of kids being in front of us is enormous.

B. Future Events

October 9	Emergency Preparedness Drills – Early Dismissal
October 12	Columbus Day – Schools Closed
October 20	High School Math Honor Society Inductions
October 27	High School World Language Honor Society Induction
November 3	Election Day – No School for Students
	Superintendent’s Conference Day
November 4	Board of Education Meeting

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS – *Agenda Items Only*

There were no public comments on agenda items.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Blane, seconded by Ms. Lanci and carried 7-0 the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

A. Donation

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$3,240.00 from the Nassau County Police Athletic League organization for the purchase of a soccer goal for John F. Kennedy High School and increase appropriations budget by the same amount.

Ms. Piskin thanked the Nassau County Police Athletic League for the donation.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Miller, seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved by a consent agenda items VII.B through VIII.J.

B. Policy

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following policies for a second reading:

Policy No. 0110 – Sexual Harassment (Revised)

Policy No. 0110.1 – Sexual Harassment of Students (New)

Policy No. 0110.2 – Sexual Harassment of Employees (New)

C. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the revised Special Education vendors for School Year 2020-2021.

D. Special Education

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following recommendations for placement made by the Committee on Special Education: 000012296, 000012423, 000012545, 000013130, 000512016, 000512235, 000512884, 000513269, 090090000, 102370000, 201600052, 201600057, 201800189, 201900095, 201900123, 202000034, 202000035, 370001235, 370001269, 370001585 and 992450247.

VIII. PERSONNEL REPORT – October 7, 2020

- A. Termination
- B. Resignations
- C. Appointments
- D. Salary Reclassification
- E. Leave Request
- F. Rescind Appointment
- G. Assigned Services – Athletics – Cancellation
- H. Assigned Services – Athletics
- I. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics – Cancellation
- J. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics

IX. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

A. Bills and Corresponding Warrant dated October 7, 2020

The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills and the corresponding warrants.

B. Bids

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Mr. Corona and carried 7-0 the Board of Education approved the bids as stated in the agenda.

C. Budget Summary dated September 30, 2020

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved by a consent agenda items IX.D through IX.H.

D. Indoor Worker/Student Occupied Space

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education re-affirm the practice of maintaining heat in all indoor worker/student occupied spaces, excluding processing spaces (freezers and coolers) and gymnasiums, at 68° Fahrenheit from October 15th through April 15th, and 65° Fahrenheit from September 15th through October 14th and April 16th through May 31st.

E. Fitness Equipment Service Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a service and maintenance agreement with Professional Fitness Services for fitness equipment in each of the district's buildings from 8/15/20-6/30/21 at a total cost of \$4,000.00.

F. Corrective Action Plan

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Corrective Action Plan of the 2019-20 Internal Control Risk Assessment performed by the Internal Auditor, Questar III.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Corrective Action Plan of the 2019-20 Fixed Asset Audit performed by the Internal Auditor, Questar III.

G. Snack Vending

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an extension to a vending contract with Quick Snacks Vending for the 2020-2021 school year for the provision of vending services in the District via the BOCES contract. The District will receive a commission on total sales; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Food Services Director is the District's authorized representative as concerns this agreement.

H. APTS – AP Test Service Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Achievement Point Test Service, LLC. for registration and scheduling services for Advanced Placement exams for the 2020-2021 school year at the rates specified in the contract.

X. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Piskin stated the Board of Education did receive correspondence.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Guglielmo publicly thanked Mr. Christopher Safina and Ms. Jennifer Landry of Mepham High School for going out of their way to help him schedule his son's SAT test, even though he is not a resident of the school district. He said his son's test site closed at the last minute due to COVID-19 and Mr. Safina and Ms. Landry treated his family with so much care and compassion. He decided to come tonight so that Mr. DeTommaso and the Board of Education would know how they went above and beyond to accommodate him.

Ms. Piskin thanked Mr. Guglielmo for coming to the meeting to tell them this in person.

XII. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no old or new business.

XIII. POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Education did not enter into Executive Session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Blane, seconded by Ms. Cmar-Grote and carried 7-0, the Board of Education meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pattianne Guccione
District Clerk